

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claim 37 is cancelled. As set forth in MPEP § 1206(I), Amendments filed after the filing of a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, may be admitted to cancel claims. Accordingly, as this Amendment merely cancels Claim 37, it is respectfully submitted that it should be entered to place the application in better condition for appeal. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 25, 28-36 and 38-45 will be pending in the application.

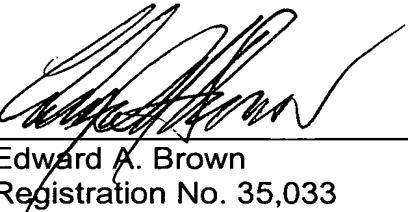
Applicants thank Examiner Zervigon for the courtesies extended to their undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted on October 4, 2006. During the interview, differences between U.S. Patent No. 5,935,373 to Koshimizu and U.S. Patent No. 4,439,401 to Voll et al. ("Voll") and the claimed subject matter were discussed. Particularly, it was discussed that Voll does not disclose a gas injector including gas outlets in an axial distal end surface. It was also discussed that neither Koshimizu nor Voll discloses a gas injector including an O-ring seal. Examiner Zervigon indicated that Koshimizu discloses a seal member 110, but acknowledged that it is not associated with Koshimizu's disclosed gas supply port 156.

If there are any questions concerning this paper, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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